



**Minutes of the Members' Forum and Annual General meeting  
held on Monday September 9th 2024 at 2.00 p.m.  
at the Heritage Hub**

**Those present were:**

Blockley Heritage Society	Roger Thornburgh
Chalford Parish Local History Group	Camilla Boon, Roger Carnt
Charlton Kings Local and Family History Society	Geoff Bridgman, Mike Greet
Cheltenham Local History Society	Stuart Manton, David Scriven, Sally Self
Chipping Campden History Society	Judith Ellis
Churchdown Local History Society	Joan Hughes
Cirencester Archaeological and Historical Society	Anne Buffoni
Forest of Dean Local History Society	Sue Newton, Mary Sullivan
Gloucestershire Archaeology	Denise Vizer
Gloucestershire Archives	Jemma Fowkes, John Putley
Gloucestershire County History Trust	David Aldred
Gloucestershire Family History Society	Vicky Thorpe
Gloucester Street History Group (Winchcombe)	Rob White
Maisemore Local History Society	David Jones
Nailsworth Society Local History Research Group	Jane Butler, Paul Butler
Painswick Local History Society	Carol Maxwell, Peter Jackson
Stonehouse History Group	Janet Hudson, Vicki Walker
Stroud and District Learners Circle	John Peters
Stroudwater Navigation Archives Charity	Tony Chalk
Swindon Village Society Local History Group	Eileen Allen
Tewkesbury Historical Society	John Dixon

**42 attendees**

**Apologies for absence:**

Berkeley Local History Group	Margaret Orchard
Chipping Campden History Society	Mary Fielding
Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club	Peter Cornish, Jane Rowe
Dursley & Cam Society and Friends of Purton	Janet Presley
Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology	Ray Wilson
Gotherington Local History Society	Caroline Meller
Oakridge History Group	John Loosley
Prestbury Local History Society	Val Porter
Stroudwater Navigation Archives Charity	Lois Francis
Stroud Waterways Museum	Chris Witts
Tidenham History Group	Liz McBride
Winchcombe History Group	John Hancock

## **Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed people attending for the first time

**Minutes of the Members' Forum and AGM Monday June 17th** were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

## **Matters Arising**

David Jones (Maisemore) congratulated the Association on an excellent Local History Day held on July 27th at Hartpury University. This was agreed by the reps who had attended the day.

The Chair also thanked Forest of Dean Local History Society for a most enjoyable Summer Afternoon event at Coleford.

## **Chair's Report by Sally Self**

Members were emailed a written report before the meeting. The Chair drew attention to the following additional points.

### Glosdocs

New resources will continue to be added to the site by Ray Wilson.

You can find out more about GlosDocs at <https://glosdocs.org.uk/glosdocs-about/>

### Website

#### Speakers List

The committee intended to update guidance given concerning the GLHA Speakers List following comments made at the last Forum. The committee were looking into the best way to receive feedback from users of the speakers list.

Ray Wilson had decided to give up the role of managing the Speakers List after 23 years. Mary Sullivan would be taking over the role from Ray. The Chair thanked Ray for all his valuable work on the List.

### GLHA website

After consideration, Ray has decided to give up managing the GLHA website which he set up 20 years ago as part of the GRCCLHC. This decision was made after the Chair's Report had been written and so there had not been an opportunity to thank Ray in writing for all his past work for GLHA.

The committee wished to make it clear how much Ray's work over the past 38 years has been valued and appreciated. It was hoped to make a presentation to him at the December Forum if he is able to attend. The Chair has now been able to find out some details of Ray's contribution to GLHA.

### Thanks to Ray Wilson

Ray first became involved in the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council Local History Committee (GLHC), the forerunner of GLHA, in 1986. He is well-known for his interesting and informative presentations, particularly on local industries, and in the early days, delivered two talks at the Local History Afternoon. Ray comments that one was at exactly 24 hours notice, much to the relief of Chairman John Loosley, when a speaker pulled out with 'nerves' the day before - and it was a brand new talk finished at 5am on the morning of the talk.

As part of GLHC he created the first 'Gloshistory' website in 2001 and maintained and developed it until the present time, progressing from using simple HTML to PHP and WordPress.

He put the Speakers List online in about 2003 and continued to maintain it when it became part of the GLHA website and was responsible for its administration until 2024. In later years he worked with Steve Blake, the previous GLHA Chairman, in relation to approval of who goes on the list and on rare occasions, who had to be removed. Full updates of the List require email conversation with in excess of 60 speakers. Ray comments that these could sometimes be a bit challenging but always interesting.

When GLHA was formed he provided a cost effective method for retaining the Society Talks list. The cost of typing up the programmes had been a major factor in GRCC pulling funding from GLHC. He devised a system which requires groups to prepare their entries to a prescribed format. This can be read into a spreadsheet, sorted by date and output as a PDF, which reduces the workload for the administrator and also reduces the likelihood of errors. Groups have said that the Talks List has proved useful in giving ideas for speakers to book for their own programmes. Ray also instigated the Visits and Tours list which has been used by some groups.

Ray instigated and led the early Evening Walks. He originally intended them as a social get together for the member group reps but later it was opened up generally. Ray led walks at Stroud, Painswick, Sharpness Docks (twice) and Leckhampton Hill.

He also instigated and led the early workshops which were run in addition to the Forum. These included Computing for Local Historians, Websites, GlosDocs and co-leading Advanced Zoom techniques. He also produced papers which were circulated to groups with advice on various matters. These were often write-ups of things he had done for GSIA. Probably the most useful was a practical guide to GDPR, which had quite a bit of interest, and Computer security (HTTPS not HTTP).

One of his projects that will be of lasting benefit to the local history community is the GlosDocs project. Ray has collected a huge range of documents and photographs from many sources, including important collections such as that of Lionel Walrond, ex-curator of Stroud Museum and The Gwladys Davies Photographic Collection (Mills Section). Several of our member groups have contributed their Journals, displays and other records. Ray is adding to the collection all the time and making such historic documents available to the wider world. Contact Ray on [enquiries@glosdocs.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@glosdocs.org.uk) if you would like to contribute.

Ray is standing down as administrator of the GLHA website in order to concentrate on his other many projects, including Glosdocs. He has certainly contributed a great deal to GLHA and the local history community in general. We are very grateful for all the hard work he has put in to create and maintain important sources of information. As well as being challenging at times, Ray says it has been fun! We wish him all the best in his future projects.

### **Treasurer's Report by David Scriven**

Members had been emailed a written report presenting the GLHA's financial accounts for the 5 months ending August 31st 2024. As at that date the Association's funds stood at £3,160, an increase of £164 since the end of the previous financial year. Income during this period amounted to £1,961, which included £750 from membership subscriptions and £1,080 from admission charges to the Local History Day held in July at Hartpury University. Expenditure amounted to £1,797, including £1,497 for the Local History Day.

Membership: Of the 54 members last year 50 had now renewed their membership and paid their subscriptions for the current year. The Treasurer thanked groups for their promptness in paying their subs this year, which had been very helpful.

### **Report from Gloucestershire Archives by John Putley (Community Heritage Officer)**

Members had received a written report before the meeting. John drew attention to the main points particularly the wide range of events being organised at the Heritage Hub. He encouraged members to visit the Gloucestershire Family History Society's Family History Fair to be held at the Heritage Hub on 2nd November 2024.

### **Report from Glos County History Trust by David Aldred (Trustee)**

David gave a short verbal report as detailed below. He also showed his grandfather's original leather identity tag from his service in World War One, during which he was taken prisoner at the Battle of the Somme, but fortunately survived to return home.

As it is only a little over five weeks that the newsletter was sent out, there isn't a great deal further to report. The success of our fund-raising evening at Little Sodbury Manor, which was reported in the newsletter, means that we now have the funds to offer a contract before the end of the year to complete the work on the South Gloucestershire volume. The last parish for the Cirencester volume has been completed and Francis Boorman, the volume's editor, is drafting the introduction for the volume. Work is finally underway on Charlton Kings for the Cheltenham volume and the first draft of the medieval section has been submitted to our new county editor, Simon Draper.

Looking forward to our proposed volumes on the Winchcombe and Marshfield areas once the current volumes come to completion, the Trust has given a presentation in Winchcombe and volunteers are already working with Sally Self and Rob White to transcribe relevant documents. In due course we will be offering a contract for a researcher to make a start on one of the parishes.

Lastly we were encouraged by the interest shown in our display at the local history day at Hartpury in July; we even managed to sell a few of our books on Cheltenham and Yate. We will be repeating the display at the family history day here on Saturday 2nd November.

**AOB**

Roger Thornburgh from Blockley Heritage Society drew attention to a village history exhibition to be held at Stretton-on Fosse (near Blockley) from 14th Sept to 22nd Sept at St Peter's Church.

**Short break followed by:**

Following on from the talk in June on "*Working with schools*" .....

**A workshop – "*Into the classroom*"**

**Following queries from schools as to how to approach a local history project, we looked at ways in which this might be achieved.**

Attendees were divided into 4 groups of 6 with a leader to take notes. Reps had been sent some questions to consider before the meeting and groups answered these and shared their experiences of working with schools. Feedback from each group was taken at the end of the session and noted by the Chair. Leaders were requested to send notes of their discussions to the Chair and Secretary who would combine them into a Guide to Working with Schools to be available on the GLHA website in due course.

The Chair thanked all the contributors for their enthusiasm and willingness to share their experiences.

The meeting closed at 4 pm.

Agreed at a meeting on.....

Signed.....(Chair)